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Commissioner Philip Giudice
Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources
100 Cambridge St., Suite 1020
Boston, MA 02114

Steven

Dear Commissioner Giudice,

I am concerned about SB 1504 and HB 3065, the Comprehensive Wind Siting Reform act.

Wind turbine facilities are large-scale construction projects with very significant potential impacts on the environment and on the character of our rural communities. These facilities should be subject to current standards of local and state review. Expediting permitting of these large facilities on some of the state's most sensitive lands could result in serious environmental impacts, loss of local input and undermine the integrity of the state's environmental review process for all new development.

The governor's proposed 947 megawatts of wind facilities would require approximately 1,400 wind turbines and associated access roads and transmission lines. They would be located on up to 130 linear miles of ridgelines and mountaintops - mainly in the western part of the state. Most turbines are over 400' tall and over 20' wide at the base. This is a very large construction project by any standard and it will be taking place in some of the state's most sensitive and iconic landscapes. The amount of "clean" energy produced may not be worth the sacrifice of the commonwealth's environment and rural character. This important question needs to be reviewed through existing procedures and laws and not given an exemption.

I also oppose amending Article 97 of the state constitution to allow wind turbine facilities to be built in state forests, state parks and other protected conservation lands. This would set an unfortunate precedent and would undermine Article 97 protections for a wide range of uses inappropriate for our conservation lands. The state parks system was established for environmental protection, recreation, wildlife habitat, and forest management - not for energy facilities. Thanks for your consideration of my concerns.

Sincerely,



Harry L. Dodson